



Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council

Date: May 6, 2008

From: Bonnie Lowenthal, Vice Mayor, First District
Suja Lowenthal, Second District
Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District

Subject: Parking Impacted Area

REQUESTED ACTION:

Respectfully request the City Manager work with the City Attorney and return to City Council within 60 days with potential modifications to parking regulations in the municipal code that would give the City Traffic Engineer greater discretion to develop more flexible parking solutions inside the City's designated *Parking Impacted Area* in subjects including but not limited to:

- Pavement & curb markings
- Parking space length and width
- Parking inside "T" intersections
- Customized signage
- Street Sweeping
- Diagonal parking
- Street design modification

Request the City Manager review other city department functions for opportunities to promote innovative solutions to parking issues inside the *Parking Impacted Area*.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Long Beach has one designated *Parking Impacted Area* encompassing parts of the First, Third, Fourth, Sixth, and Seventh Council districts as well as *all* of the Second Council District (see attached map). The *Parking Impacted Area* was developed through an extensive parking survey conducted with the help of a consultant to determine residential areas in which at least 75% of the on-street parking spaces were occupied at night. In order to create a continuous area and boundary lines, city staff and Council offices provided input into the final recommendations made to City Council, which adopted the area without change.

Despite having this designation, the *Parking Impacted Area* has not led to substantial changes in parking rules or regulations in this designated area, except for an ordinance requiring a garage inspection upon resale of a home to curb illegal garage conversion. I firmly believe that this designation should result in something more tangible than enabling city staff and

residents to identify where the parking problem exists. The residents in our *Parking Impacted Area* need the City Traffic Engineer's leadership in developing and implementing unconventional parking solutions. To this end, I hope to encourage our city staff to use their judgment in experimenting with different approaches to our parking problem, provided public safety is not compromised. Should these solutions prove successful, they could be considered for use outside the *Parking Impacted Area*.

What I am requesting is a review of the parking provisions in our municipal code allowing the City's Traffic Engineer to use his discretion within the boundaries of our designated *Parking Impacted Area* to reach practical solutions to our intolerable parking problems when Federal or State guidelines or practices prove overly restrictive.